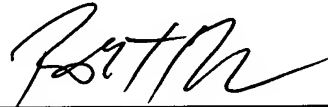


**REMARKS**

Upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, the specification has been amended to incorporate the priority information and replace the abstract, and the claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. The applicants believe that no new matter has been added as a result of these amendments and respectfully request consideration and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP

By: 

Robert C. Perez

Registration No.: 39328

Direct Telephone No.: (703) 770-7759

RCP/smw  
P.O. Box 10500  
McLean, VA 22102  
(703) 770-7900  
(703) 770-7901 (fax)